MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION

BETWEEN:

GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE,
incorporated under the *Canada Corporations Act,*

AND

THE HONOURABLE JIM BRADLEY,
MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT FOR ONTARIO

AND

THE HONOURABLE MICHAEL GRAVELLE,
MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR ONTARIO

AND

THE HONOURABLE,TED MCMEEKIN
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS
FOR ONTARIO

WHEREAS the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (the "Cities Initiative") and the Ontario Ministers of the Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs ("Ontario") share the vision of a healthy, prosperous and sustainable Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem;

AND WHEREAS the Cities Initiative and Ontario recognize that provincial and municipal governments each play an important role in protecting and conserving the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem;

AND WHEREAS the Cities Initiative and Ontario recognize that 98% of Ontarians live in the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem and depend upon it for,drinking water, food production, power generation, culture and recreation, moderating climate and social well-being;

AND WHEREAS the governments of Canada and Ontario entered into the Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem ("COA") in 2007 to restore, protect and conserve the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem, and COA is scheduled to expire on June 24, 2012;

AND WHEREAS the governments of Canada and the United States have concluded the negotiation of amendments to strengthen and modernize the Canada-United States

Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement ("GLWQA") and are expected to sign a protocol to formally amend the GLWQA in 2012;

AND WHEREAS the governments of Canada and Ontario have pledged to work together under the existing COA and to negotiate a new COA, once the amendments to the GLWQA are in place;

AND WHEREAS the Cities Initiative is a binational organization of mayors and other local officials interested in protecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem and its membership includes Ontario municipalities;

AND WHEREAS Ontario values the contributions that municipalities have made in managing water resources and our natural heritage effectively and recognizes the importance of municipal government programs, policies and investments in restoring, conserving and protecting the health of the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem;

AND WHEREAS the Cities Initiative and Ontario wish to engage and communicate with each other on various matters that relate to the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem, and entered into Memoranda of Cooperation in 2008 and in 2010 to facilitate collaboration on matters that relate to the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem;

AND WHEREAS the Cities Initiative and Ontario have agreed to enter a new Memorandum of Cooperation to further enhance collaboration on matters related to the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem;

NOW THEREFORE the Cities Initiative and Ontario have agreed as follows:

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) is to outline the areas of cooperation among the Parties in communications and engagement in support of the existing Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem ("COA") and in respect of a new COA and of Ontario legislation or programs directly related to Great Lakes protection.

2. GOALS

- To build collaboration between Ontario and Ontario municipalities in the protection and conservation of the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem.

- To establish mechanisms to discuss and pursue common objectives and address issues of concern to municipalities and Ontario related to the protection and conservation of the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem.

3. COMMITMENTS OF THE PARTIES

Commitments of Ontario

- Ontario will work with the Cities Initiative to develop appropriate mechanisms for engaging with the Ontario members of the Cities Initiative, as well as the broader Ontario municipal sector, on issues pertaining to the protection and conservation of the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem, and more specifically on the existing COA and a new COA, particularly on issues of municipal interest and responsibility.

- When appropriate, Ontario will involve and inform the Cities Initiative on future plans and approaches to protecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem through COA.

- Ontario will receive, and take into consideration, information, advice and recommendations from the Ontario members of the Cities Initiative and the broader municipal sector on the protection and conservation of the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem under COA on issues of municipal interest and responsibility.

- Ontario will explore additional areas of cooperation with the Cities Initiative that are of interest to the Parties.

Commitments of the Cities Initiative

- The Cities Initiative will work with Ontario to develop appropriate mechanisms for engaging with the Ontario members of the Cities Initiative, as well as the broader Ontario municipal sector, on issues pertaining to the protection and conservation of the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem, and more specifically on the existing COA and a new COA, particularly on issues of municipal interest and responsibility.

- The Cities Initiative will accurately represent and voice the interests of its Ontario members to Ontario.

- The Cities Initiative will engage its members, and where possible the broader municipal sector, with Ontario in sharing information, advice and recommendations on the protection and conservation of the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem under COA on issues of municipal interest and responsibility.

- The Cities Initiative will explore additional areas of cooperation with Ontario that are of interest to the Parties.

4. IMPLEMENTATION OF MOC

The Cities Initiative will establish a working group made up of the Ontario members of the Cities Initiative and the broader Ontario municipal sector to collaborate on the implementation of this MOC.

The Parties will work together to organize periodic meetings to discuss the implementation of the commitments under this MOC.

For certainty, nothing within this MOC creates any funding obligations for any of the Parties.

5. TERMS OF MOC

The MOC takes effect on the day on the 1st day of June, 2012 and expires on May 31, 2014.

The MOC may be renewed with the written concurrence of all Parties.

6. MEASURES AND OBLIGATIONS

Nothing in this MOC precludes any of the Parties from exercising any measures and satisfying any obligations prescribed under the laws of their respective jurisdiction.

7. AMENDMENTS

The MOC may be amended in writing with the consent of all Parties.

8. TERMINATION

Any of the Parties can terminate their participation in this MOC upon 30 days written notice to all of the signatories.

9. NOT LEGALLY BINDING

This MOC does not create legally binding obligations on the Parties.

Mayor Brian McMullan of
St. Catharines
Secretary/Treasurer and Director
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence
Cities Initiative

The Honourable Jim Bradley
Minister of the Environment
Province of Ontario

The Honourable Michael Gravelle
Minister of Natural Resources
Province of Ontario

The Honourable Ted McMeekin
Minister of Agriculture, Food and
Rural Affairs
Province of Ontario